CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A computer system, comprising:

2   a processor;

3   at least one input/output device coupled to said processor;

4   a flashable ROM device coupled to said processor and containing a configuration table; and

5   a non-volatile, non-flashable memory device coupled to said processor and containing a

6   extension configuration table;

7   wherein configuration information can be added to the computer system by storing such

8   configuration information in the non-volatile, non flashable memory device.

1   2.   The computer system of claim 1 wherein, upon executing a set-up routine to configure the

2   computer system for a newly installed device, said processor examines the flashable ROM device

3   to determine whether configuration information pertaining to the newly installed device is present

4   and, if not, said processor then examines the non-volatile, non-flashable memory device to

5   determine whether the configuration information pertaining to the newly installed device is

6   present.

1   3.   The computer system of claim 2 wherein said non-volatile, non-flashable memory device

2   comprises a non-volatile RAM device.

1   4.   The computer system of claim 2 wherein said configuration table and said extension

2   configuration table include a plurality of entries with each entry including an option identifier and

3   corresponding configuration data.

1   5.   The computer system of claim 4 wherein each option identifier and corresponding

2   configuration data pertain to a circuit board.

1   6.   The computer system of claim 2 wherein said configuration table includes a plurality of

2   entries with each entry including a board identifier and corresponding configuration data.

1   7.   The computer system of claim 6 wherein said extension configuration table includes

2   storage capacity for a plurality of entries that include a board identifier and corresponding

3   configuration data.

1   8.   A method of configuring a computer, comprising:

2   adding a device to the computer;

3   first searching a ROM memory in which configuration information is stored for the

4   configuration information pertaining to the added device; and

5   then, if the configuration is not found in the ROM memory, searching a non-volatile RAM

6   memory for the configuration information.

1   9.   The method of claim 8 further including:

2   flashing the ROM memory; and

3   determining whether any entries in the ROM memory duplicate entries in the non-volatile

4   RAM memory; and

5   if one or more duplicates are found, clearing the one or more duplicate entries from the

6   non-volatile RAM memory.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the configuration information includes circuit board

2 identifiers and corresponding configuration data.

1 11. The method of claim 9 wherein the configuration information includes operating system

2 data.

1 12. The method of claim 8 further including storing configuration information in said non-

2 volatile RAM memory instead of in the ROM memory when said device is added to the computer.

1 13. A method of flashing a ROM containing configuration information with a new set of

2 configuration information in a computer system also including an NVRAM which contains an

3 extension table having storage for configuration information, wherein new configuration is added

4 to the NVRAM extension table instead of the ROM, said method comprising:

5   comparing entries in the new set of configuration information to be stored in the ROM

6   against entries in the extension table in the NVRAM;

7   if a matching pair of entries is found, deleting the corresponding entry from the NVRAM;

8   and

9   storing the new set of configuration information in the ROM.

1   14.   The method of claim 13 wherein the configuration information comprises board identifiers

2   and corresponding configuration data.